

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5428
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASHA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0629

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, LY, CH, FR
SUBJECT: LIBYA STILL MUM ON CHAD EVENTS

REF: (A) TRIPOLI 0596 (NOTAL), (B) TRIPOLI 0609 (NOTAL),
(C) TRIPOLI 0614 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL MEDIA REPORTING AND COMMENTARIES ON SITUATION IN CHAD CONTINUE TO BE OBLIQUE TO SAY THE LEAST. FRENCH INTERVENTION HAS BEEN NOTED BY RADIO AND PRESS AND HARSHLY CONDEMNED (REFTELS B AND C). FROLINAT ACTIVITIES, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT BEEN MENTIONED AT ALL SINCE FIGHTING BEGAN APRIL 14.

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2. DIRECT LIBYAN ATTACKS ON FRENCH INTERVENTION IN CHAD SUCH AS REPORTED REFTEL C WERE MUTED OVER PAST 24 HOURS WITH EMPHASIS AGAIN FOCUSED ON FRENCH DOMESTIC CRITICISM. APRIL 26 TRIPOLI NEWS BROADCAST QUOTES COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY FRENCH NATIONAL UNITED SOCIALIST PARTY WHICH SAYS THAT QUOTE THE SENDING OF AN ADDITIONAL MILITARY BATTALION TO CHAD WITHOUT MAKING ANY JUSTIFICATIONS IS CONSIDERED

AS CONFIRMING A NEW FORM OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN
THE AFRICAN CONTINENT UNQUOTE.

3. LIBYAN MEQJHAVE NOT AS YET MENTIONED THE FROLINAT
OFFENSIVE WHICH ACTIVATED FRENCH INTERVENTION ON BEHALF
OF MALLOUM GOVERNMENT. ONLY REFERENCE TO THE UNSETTLED
SITUATION IN CHAD WAS BRIEF JANA NEWS BULLETIN APRIL 24
WHICH NOTED THAT MALLOUM AND QADHAFI QUOTE ARE CONTINUING,
THROUGH MESSAGES AND CABLES, TO CONTAIN THE SITUATION IN
CHAD AND TO RESTORE CALM IN THE COUNTRY AND CONFIRM THE
CONCILIATION AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE SEBHA AND BENGHAZI
MEETINGS UNQUOTE.

4. EVEN RECENT VISIT OF SUDANESE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
ABU AL-QASIM IBRAHIM OFFICIALLY REPORTED BY TRIPOLI'S
VOICE OF THE ARAB HOMELAND AS SIMPLY QUOTE TO IMPLEMENT
THE FIRST PRACTICAL STEP TO REALIZE THE NATIONAL RECON-
CILIATION IN CHAD. THIS STEP WAS AGREED UPON AT THE
MEETINGS IN SEBHA AND BENGHAZI UNQUOTE. NO MENTION WAS
MADE OF IBRAHIM'S INTENTION TO GO TO NDJAMENA WITH
MEMBERS OF THE MIXED MILITARY COMMISSION.

5. COMMENT. GIVEN FROLINAT'S CLOSE LIBYAN CONNECTION,
IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT APRIL 14 CHAD OFFENSIVE WAS UNDER-
TAKEN WITHOUT LIBYA'S PRIOR KNOWLEDGE, IF NOT TACIT
APPROVAL. AS THE SEBHA AND BENGHAZI MEETINGS INDICATED
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AND AS THE RECENT OFFENSIVE REITERATES, LIBYA WANTS A
MORE "PROGRESSIVE" GOVERNMENT IN NDJAMENA, AND THE
SEBHA "RECONCILIATION PROCESS," WHICH IS SLATED TO
CULMINATE IN JUNE, IS DESIGNED TO PAVE THE WAY. QADHAFI
HAS MADE THE "PEACEFUL" CHAD RECONCILIATION A MILESTONE
OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY, AND IF IT FAILS TO TURN OUT AS
HE ENVISIONS IT, THEN HE HAS ALREADY SET THE GROUNDWORK
FOR BLAMING IT ON THE BUGBEAR OF "IMPERIALIST" (READ
FRENCH AND AMERICAN) INTERVENTION WHICH IS ALL PART OF
A GRAND "NEO-COLONIALIST" DESIGN AGAINST THE AFRICAN
CONTINENT (REFTEL A).
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